

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- sub. C1
1. A method of replacing a fan module during operation of an electronic apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:
- 5 instructing a replacement of a fan module; and
 controlling a fan drive voltage not to be supplied to a fan module to be replaced when the replacement is instructed.
- 520-7 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 10 confirming a state where a plurality of fan modules are installed, wherein
 the controlling step includes the step of controlling the fan drive voltage not to be supplied to a fan module to be replaced if the replacement of
- 15 a fan module is instructed during the state where the plurality of fan modules are installed.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- 20 starting a timer count operation at a time when the fan drive voltage is controlled not to be supplied to a fan module; and
 alerting an operator when a timer count value of the timer count operation reaches a specified value.
- 25 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
 indicating that the replacement is possible after

the fan drive voltage is controlled not to be supplied to a fan module.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

5 controlling a fan drive voltage, if the replacement of a fan module is completed, to be supplied to the replaced fan module.

6. An electronic apparatus capable of replacing a fan module during operation, comprising:

10 means for instructing a replacement of a fan module; and

 means for controlling a fan drive voltage not to be supplied to a fan module to be replaced when the replacement is instructed.

15 7. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

 means for detecting a state where a plurality of fan modules is installed, wherein

20 the controlling means includes means for controlling the fan drive voltage not to be supplied to a fan module to be replaced if the replacement of a fan module is instructed during the state where the plurality of fan modules are installed.

25 8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of fan modules implement redundancy.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a relay cable coupled to a fan module for transmitting the fan drive voltage.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the relay cable is capable of being
5 disconnected/connected from/to a fan module.

SD 11. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for starting a timer count operation at a time when the fan drive voltage is controlled not to
10 be supplied to a fan module to be replaced; and

means for alerting an operator when a timer count value of the timer count operation reaches a specified value.

12. The apparatus according to claim 6, further
15 comprising:

means for indicating that the replacement is possible after the fan drive voltage is controlled not to be supplied to a fan module to be replaced.

13. The apparatus according to claim 6, further
20 comprising:

means for controlling a fan drive voltage, when the replacement of a fan module is completed, to be supplied to the replaced fan module.

14. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
25 the instructing means comprises a switch.

15. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
the instructing means comprises a software.

Sub 16. An electronic apparatus capable of replacing
a fan module during operation, comprising:

a relay cable coupled to a fan module for
transmitting the fan drive voltage and capable of being
5 disconnected/connected from/to a fan module;

means for instructing a replacement of a fan
module; and

means for controlling a fan drive voltage not to
be supplied via the relay cable to a fan module to be
10 replaced when the replacement is instructed.

5/17 17. The apparatus according to claim 16, further
comprising:

means for detecting a state where a plurality of
fan modules is installed, wherein

15 the controlling means includes means for
controlling the fan drive voltage not to be supplied to
a fan module to be replaced if the replacement of a fan
module is instructed during the state where the
plurality of fan modules are installed.

20 18. The apparatus according to claim 16, further
comprising:

means for starting a timer count operation at a
time when the fan drive voltage is controlled not to be
supplied to a fan module to be replaced; and

25 means for alerting an operator when a timer count
value of the timer count operation reaches a specified
value.